

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Efficient techniques for processing multicast requests in a switch system are disclosed. The efficient techniques lead to substantial reduction in switch system bandwidth consumption while processing multicast requests. In one embodiment, a multicast queue is used to hold multicast blocks of data (e.g., cells) that are to be switched, and duplication of the blocks of data for delivery to multiple destinations (e.g., ports) is performed by a switch device (e.g., crossbar switch) as opposed to storage queues or repeated transfers from storage queues to the switch device.